**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please enter the attached listing of claims into the application. This listing of claims replaces all prior listing of claims in the application.

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing the risk of colorectal cancer and colorectal polyps, comprising:

selecting a panel of biomarkers comprising at least two polynucleotides ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ including SEQ ID Nos:1[[,]] and 2 ~~and 5~~;

amplifying and quantifying RNA expression levels in a biological colorectal sample from a subject for each biomarker in the panel including polynucleotides comprising ~~comprising the at least two polynucleotides selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID Nos:1[[,]] and 2 ~~and 5~~; and

comparing the quantified expression levels of each biomarker including ~~the at least two~~ polynucleotides comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and 2 in the sample to each of the same biomarker expression level in a normal control colorectal sample[[,]];

determining ~~wherein~~ a difference ~~when analyzed by a multivariant analysis of variance (MANOVA)~~ in the expression levels in the biological sample compared to the normal control wherein an increase in the expression level of at least SEQ ID NO:1 and/or 2 is indicative of a risk of colorectal cancer and colorectal polyps.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, where the step of selecting a panel of biomarkers further comprises at least one polynucleotide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:3-15 and 16 ~~6-14~~.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, where the step of selecting a panel of biomarkers further comprises[[:]] at least one polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from SEQ ID Nos: 15 and 16.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, where the step of amplifying further comprises using at least two sets of primers chosen from (i) SEQ ID NO:45 and 46, (ii) SEQ ID NO:47 and 48, (iii) SEQ ID NO:53 and 54, (iv) SEQ ID NO:73 and 74 and (v) SEQ ID NO:75 and 76.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, where the step of amplifying further comprises using enzymes and reagents for the preparation of cDNAs.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, where the step of quantifying the levels of ~~cDNA~~ RNA further comprises labeling the amplified polynucleotide ~~cDNA~~.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, where labeling ~~cDNA~~ includes at least one chromophore.

56. (Cancelled).

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein an increase in ~~at least one biomarker of the selected biomarker panel~~ a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and/or 2 in the sample compared to levels of corresponding biomarkers from the normal control identifies the subject as a candidate for the risk management of colorectal cancer and colorectal polyps~~, wherein the management is selected from one or more of risk assessment, early diagnosis, establishing prognosis, monitoring patient treatment, and detecting relapse~~.

58-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising obtaining a sample of colorectal cells by minimally invasive or non-invasive techniques.

62. (Original) The method of claim 61, where the minimally invasive step is by use of a swab.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, where obtaining a sample of colorectal cells is non-invasive.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, where the non-invasive step is by collection of a stool sample.

65-95. (Cancelled)

96. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the ~~at least one~~ biomarker comprises (i) SEQ ID NO:1, (ii) SEQ ID NO:2, or (iii) SEQ ID Nos:1 and 2.

97. (Cancelled).

98. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing the risk of colorectal cancer, comprising:

selecting a panel of biomarkers comprising polynucleotides having sequences ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ including SEQ ID Nos:1 and 2;

obtaining a biological colorectal sample from a subject;

isolating cellular RNA from the sample;

amplifying and quantifying RNA expression levels in a biological colorectal sample from a subject for each biomarker in the panel including SEQ ID Nos:1 and 2; and

comparing the quantified expression levels of each biomarker in the sample to each of the same biomarker expression level in a normal control colorectal sample;

determining~~, wherein~~ a difference in the expression levels of the biomarkers in the panel including SEQ ID Nos: 1 and 2 in the biological sample compared to the normal control, wherein an increase in at least SEQ ID NO:1 and/or 2 is indicative of a colorectal cancer.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, where the step of selecting a panel of biomarkers further comprises at least one additional polynucleotide from SEQ ID NOs: 3-16.

100. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 98, where the step of quantifying the levels of RNA ~~cDNA~~ further comprises labeling cDNA.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 100, where labeling cDNA includes at least one chromophore.

102. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 98, wherein an increase in the expression of a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and/or 2 ~~in at least one biomarker of the selected biomarker panel~~ in the sample compared to levels of corresponding biomarkers from the normal control identifies the subject as a candidate for further clinical management ~~including one or more of follow on risk assessment, patient monitoring, and detecting recurrence~~.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, where the step of obtaining a sample of colorectal cells is minimally invasive or non-invasive.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, where the minimally invasive step is by use of a swab.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, where the step of obtaining a sample of colorectal cells is non-invasive.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, where the non-invasive step is by collection of a stool sample.

107. (Cancelled).